

**Wanda Chilton  
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Oroville, CA 95966  
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April 21, 2003

To: Ms. Kim Cotto  
Department of Water Resources  
1416 Ninth Street, P. O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

SUBJECT: Scoping Documents 1, 2; and California Environmental  
Quality Act Notice of Preparation

We walk on Table Mountain and in the canyons in and around Oroville, Butte County. There, we hear the voices of our ancestors and they tell us of the time they walked this path. To the Unakas this is but foolish rambling of native people. But we, the Keetowah, know it to be true.

Much of the history of Native Americans has been destroyed and the oral history not accepted by current day writers of Native American history. Non Native American professors and anthropologists use language in tracing the location and history of the tribes and nations. However, in Butte County, this method of tracing is not used.

Volume 8, Handbook of North American Indians, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, Copyrighted in 1978, acknowledges the following:

1. Cherokees in California 1828.
2. Maiduan family - Konkow language - Cherokee dialect.
3. Two reservations in California have Cherokees as roll members.


Based on the above, why have we, the Cherokees of Butte County, been denied the right to attend tribal meetings and access to items found in the Oroville Lake area? *"Our pride in our ancestral heritage is our great incentive for handing something worthwhile to our posterity. It is this pride in ancestry that makes men strong and loyal for their principle in Life."* Chief Redbird Smith, Cherokee.

On behalf of the Cherokees of Butte County, we request access to the Native American artifacts that were retrieved from Lake Oroville (either before the dam was

built or after the dam was built.) Many Native American artifacts were taken from Lake Oroville area this winter and are somewhere in Chico. *and SACRAMENTO CA.*

We are anticipating a response from you addressing the issues above

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wanda Chilton".

Wanda Chilton

COPIES:

1. Chief, Cherokee Nation
2. FERC
3. Governor Gray Davis